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18. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 14, wherein said polypeptide furth r comprises the amino acid sequence AVGPDVFQAHQEDTERYVLTNLNIGAELLRDPSLGAQFRVHLVKMVILTEPEGAPNITANLTSSL LSVCGWSQTINPEDDTDPGHADLVLYITRFDLELPDGNRQVRGVTQLGGACSPTWSCLITEDT GFDLGVTI (SEQ ID NO: 15) directly following the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1).

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26. A composition comprising a polypeptide which comprises the sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1).

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28. A method of purifying von Willebrand factor comprising contacting a solution containing von Willebrand factor with a polypeptide substrate comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1) under conditions sufficient to bind von Willebrand factor to the substrate.

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30. An isolated polypeptide having vWF protease activity wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLVAVGPDVFQAHQEDTERYVLTNLNIGAELLRDPSLGAQFRVHLVKMVILTEPEG APNITANLTSSLLSVCGWSQTINPEDDTDPGHADLVLYITRFDLELPDGNRQVRGVTQLGGACS PTWSCLITEDTGFDLGVTI (SEQ ID NO 4).

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

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The invention relates to vWF cleaving entities having a molecular weight of 180 kD, 170 kD, 160 kD, 120 kD or 110 kD and an N-terminal amino acid sequence of AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1), vWF cleaving complexes and methods for their production.

Following the claims, please add the Sequence Listing, submitted herewith.